

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for treating a dilatation of a body, including the steps of:

inserting a catheter into a localized region of said body;

exuding from said catheter a substance capable of perfusing into at least some tissue in said localized region and allowing said substance to perfuse into a tissue of said localized region;

~~allowing said substance to perfuse into a tissue of said localized region;~~
emitting from said catheter energy of a frequency and in an amount effective to cause a temperature change in said substance heat the substance to a temperature at which it is readily absorbed into a wall of said dilatation; and

softening tissue of a wall of said dilatation by application of additional energy at a frequency and power level effective to preferentially heat said tissue of said walls while minimizing thermal injury to an inner surface of said dilatation; and

permanently contracting said dilatation by applying a vacuum by means of at least one suction port so that the dilatation shrinks to a desired diameter;

~~whereby at least some tissue in said localized region is treated.~~

2. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said localized region includes a lumen or sphincter.

3. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said localized region includes cancerous, engorged, inflamed or infected tissue.

4. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein said localized region includes an aneurysm, a blocked lumen, a stenosed lumen or a constricted lumen.

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5. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein said localized region includes a cyst, tumor or wart.
6. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said localized region is associated with a body system, said body system including a blood vessel, lung tube, lung pocket, gastrointestinal system, urogenital system, nerve or nerve sheath.
7. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein said localized region is associated with a particular organ including a kidney, prostate, retinal lesion or skin lesion.
8. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said exuded substance includes a saline solution.
9. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein said exuded substance includes a non-toxic foam.
10. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein said exuded substance includes a collagen.
11. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein said exuded substance includes a bioactive substance, said substance including a drug or enzyme.
12. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein said exuded substance includes a chemoactive substance including an acid, lipid-breaker or soap.
13. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein said exuded substance

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includes an instrumentative substance including a florescent or x-ray marker.

14. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said energy is emitted by electrical contact.

15. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein said emitted energy includes RF (monopolar or bipolar), microwave or laser.

16. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein said emitted energy includes ultrasound.

17. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein said emitted energy includes physical heating or cooling.

18. (currently amended) A method as in claim 2, wherein said treatment includes shrinkage of said lumen or said sphincter to a selected dimension.

19. (currently amended) A method as in claim 2, wherein said treatment includes shrinkage of said lumen or said sphincter to a substantially normal dimension.

20. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said treatment includes shrinkage of said engorged or inflamed tissue by removal of lipids or water.

21. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein said treatment includes shrinkage of said engorged or inflamed tissue by removal of an ablated tissue or a dead cell matter.

22. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein said treatment includes shrinkage of said engorged or inflamed tissue by removal of infection products.

23. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said treatment includes destruction of a damaged or a diseased tissue.

24. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said treatment includes promotion of epithelial growth.

25. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said treatment avoids local nerve centers.

26. (Original) A method as in claim 1, including an additional step of isolating said localized region using a structure inserted as part of said catheter.

27. (Original) A method as in claim 26, wherein said inserted structure includes an occluding balloon.

28. (Original) A method as in claim 26, wherein said inserted structure includes a space-filling balloon with a lumen through it.

29. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said catheter includes instrumentation used for feedback.

30. (Original) A method as in claim 29, wherein said feedback includes surgical visualization provided by a camera, RF energy, x-rays, florescence or ultrasound.

31. (previously presented) A method as in claim 29, wherein said feedback includes systemic feedback, comprising measurement of pH, pressure or temperature.

32. (Original) A method as in claim 29, wherein said feedback includes monitoring for said treatment, including an element for determining a location of a specified tissue element to be treated.

33. (Original) A method as in claim 29, wherein said feedback includes monitoring for said treatment, including pacing.

34. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said exuding and perfusing includes a physical method of delivery.

35. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 34, wherein said exuded and perfused substance includes a saline solution or nontoxic foam.

36. (Original) A method as in claim 34, wherein said physical method of delivery includes a porous balloon, a microporous balloon, or a balloon with a porous or microporous membrane.

37. (Original) A method as in claim 34, wherein said physical method of delivery includes direct emission from said catheter.

38. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 34, wherein said physical method of delivery includes a local structure, comprising an absorbable basket or a stent.